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# ESKAIR'S PLAYGROUND AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE GUIDE

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**Thank you for trusting Eskair** for your outdoor recreational equipment and urban furniture. It has been designed to be safe, durable over time and provide countless hours of fun for both the young and old alike. Of course, this is conditional upon its safe use and regular preventive maintenance.

## USE OF YOUR ESKAIR PRODUCT

"Having an adult playing the role of gamemaster, instructor or facilitator can add a lot to children's play experiences. Supervising can be done formally, that is, by paid staff, or informally by volunteers, parents or community organizations. Paid supervisors, volunteers, or parents may spot dangerous items that require special attention, such as broken glass or a piece of equipment that needs repair. There should be comfortable seats installed in front of the play areas for supervisors." (Extract from the CAN/CSA-Z614 standard, Appendix A) In addition, it is strongly recommended to respect the age categories indicated on the nameplates found on every Eskair product.

## PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

Prevention is the key to children's safety! A preventive inspection makes it possible to quickly identify and repair components that could have been vandalized or deteriorated by wear and tear. In this way, you ensure a safe play and exercising environments for all, as outdoor recreational equipment and its protective surfaces are regularly put to the test. In addition to normal use, which often results in hundreds of visits by children per week, there are the risks of acts of vandalism and harsh winter conditions, etc. The checklist provided by Eskair can help you diagnose your product. Reproduce this grid for an annual inspection and keep maintenance records for each one. Remember to respond quickly to any fixes that are required and to promptly notify us of any breakage requiring our specialized team's intervention. See also the attached Eskair Warranties. Please call us before trying to repair anything by yourself.

## WINTERIZING YOUR PRODUCTS

The Canadian CAN/CSA-Z614 and American ASTM F1487 standards for play areas and equipment make little or no mention of the approach to adopt in the face of winter. However, we would like to draw your attention to three important risk factors linked to frost and snow which modify children's play safety, indicating that it would be more prudent to close access to play areas when the ground freezes and in the presence of heavy snow. First, sub-zero temperatures cause the protective surface to freeze, which becomes less absorbent for bumps. Then, as the children use it, the snow around the equipment becomes very hard, and even icy. Lastly, the various openings in the equipment can be reduced by the accumulation of snow, which represents a risk of children getting their heads stuck in these openings.

# THINGS

## TO CHECK DURING PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

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Refer to the personalized maintenance schedule provided with this guide, which is based on Appendix B of the CAN/CSA-Z614 standard.

**WHO:** It is strongly recommended that you assign inspection responsibility to a specific position within your organization, integrated into their tasks and ensure verification of completion by a person in authority. You must ensure that this responsibility continues over time and that official inspection reports are maintained.

**MAINTENANCE BUDGET:** It would be optimal to plan an annual maintenance budget between \$2000 and \$4000 to compensate for any unforeseen events and to make the necessary repairs/corrections, depending on the size of the play area. Every 5-6 years, a larger budget may be required to refill some protective surfacing.

**WHAT:** It is the play area owner's responsibility to maintain the cushioning surface and ensure that it is always distributed evenly in the play area. Cedar fiber may need to be replaced a few times during a season, mainly in places where children land (ex: the bottom of a slide, around swings, etc.). You should also plan to add more after a few years since it disperses and decreases in thickness over time. A play area should always have a conforming thickness (depending on the type of equipment, generally 12 inches/30 cm) of a cushioning surface such as play fiber or sand in order to provide proper protection. Also check for parts wear and the sturdiness of steps and rungs. Look for rust, rotten wood, and cracked plastic. Any attachments must be secure and moving parts well lubricated, but without excess grease. Keep a permanent record of all inspections and maintenance performed.

**WHEN:** It is recommended to schedule regular and seasonal inspections of play areas.

- **Every early spring** to see if everything is functional and safe before the site reopens, and if there is no risk of potential splinters. Reinstall swings and other items that were removed for the winter. Turn the cushioning material over and add more as needed. Clean up any debris that may have accumulated during the winter.
- **Regularly**, rake the shock absorbing material and replace it in sufficient quantity under the riskiest areas.
- **During the summer or fall** to quickly identify any damage that may result from repetitive use.
- **In the fall**, prepare the site for winter by removing the obstacles at the bottom of the mound that will be used for sliding. Remove or tie up the swings, close the accesses to the slides and firepoles, add signs advising of the winter closure due to the frozen cushioning surface.
- **After each extreme weather event**, perform another inspection to detect any breakage and make sure that the protective surfacing is always well distributed in the playing area.
- **During the winter**, unless the play area is in a secure and supervised area, children might go and play there despite the prohibition notices. It is better to maintain constant vigilance to quickly detect any breach or security risk. Snow drifts around games can present a risk by allowing children to climb on modules where they do not normally have access, or to hide under modules where there is no snow.

**EXPLANATION OF MAINTENANCE / INSPECTION CATEGORIES** (please refer to the annual playground maintenance sheet for each category of risk.)

**1. CHAINS**

Check for bent, worn, and open links; pinch; rust; and rough edges.

**2. S-HOOKS/FASTENING DEVICES**

Check for excessive wear or cracking. Ensure that they are properly closed. Never reuse S-hooks.

**3. SEATS/TIRES**

Check all rubber seats for wear, sharp edges or points, and scorching or burn damage. Ensure that safety bars on tot seats are intact and fixed in a stationary position. Check tires for wear and sharp protrusions. Ensure that all fastening points are secure.

**4. HANGER BEARINGS**

Check for worn or excessive play in bearings and bushings. Lubricate nuts, bolts, and grease fittings. Replace corroded bolts and rivets. Check that clamps are secure.

**5. GREASE FITTINGS**

Lubricate moving parts as required. Wipe off all excess oil or grease.

**6. STABILITY IN GROUND/TILTING**

Structures should not easily sway. Connections should be solid and properly adjusted. Check the alignment of supports, platforms, barriers, etc. Check for any sign of sinking. Check all posts (wood and steel) in ground for corrosion or rot to a minimum of 375 mm (14.76 in) below ground level at least once annually.

**7. EXPOSED CONCRETE**

Remove any exposed concrete to a minimum of 150 mm (5.90 in) below ground level. Backfill and level depressions and open holes with proper material.

**8. ENTANGLEMENT POINTS/AREAS**

Check for gaps that can entangle clothing, drawstrings, etc. Pay particular attention to the sitting and sliding sections of slides and the entrance of sliding poles.

**9. END/CENTRE FITTINGS**

Check that nuts and bolts of clamps and fittings are secure. Check for sharp-edged, cracked, or broken fittings.

**10. CHAIN COVERS**

Check all fastening points (top and bottom). Check for damaged covers and visible signs of wear on swing chain.

**11. HAND/SAFETY RAILINGS, SUPPORT BARS/LEGS, AND FASTENING POINTS/AREAS**

Check for splitting, splinters, protruding bolts, or nails. Check all welds. Check that all bolts and nuts are secure. Block off entrance or opening if there is any delay in repairs.

**12. SIDEWALLS OF SLIDE BEDWAYS**

Check for protruding bolts or rivet heads and missing or loose bolts. Ensure that all bolts are properly fastened and secure. Check all welds. Check for rust or corrosion, metal fatigue, and rough or sharp edges.

### **13. ENTRAPMENT POINTS/AREAS**

Ensure that all angles, joining points, or openings are less than 90 mm (3.6 in) or more than 225 mm (8.86 in) to minimize the chance of head or neck entrapment. Check for pinch, crush, or shear points that can cause injury.

### **14. SHARP EDGES/POINTS**

Check for edges that can cut a user's skin or points that can puncture or lacerate a user's skin during use.

### **15. STAIRS/STEPS**

Check all platforms, stairs, and steps for safety. Check welds at all steel joints. Check all bolts for secure and proper fastening.

### **16. PLASTIC COMPONENTS**

Check for cracks, sharp edges, discoloration, scorching or burn damage, abrasion, excess wear, and other damage. Ensure that components are properly fastened and secure.

### **17. SPRINGS AND BARS**

Check and secure spring mounts. Check springs carefully for instability, tilting, and exposed concrete fittings. Check if handbars and footbars are in place and secure.

### **18. HANDLES**

Ensure that handles are securely fastened. Check welds, bolts, etc. Check for sharp points, bending, warping, and unevenness.

### **19. PIVOT POINTS**

Test pivot points for free movement. Check swivels, bearings, nuts, and bolts for excess wear.

### **20. NUTS AND BOLTS**

Check for loose, worn, rusted, or corroded hardware. Properly grease or lubricate where required. Remove excess lubricant.

### **21. GROUND CLEARANCE**

Check for proper clearances of all structures and equipment components as specified in this Standard.

### **22. LOCKING DEVICES**

Ensure that all locking fastening devices (interior and external) are secure.

### **23. WOOD CHECKING**

Check wood timbers and support posts for excess checking. Note cracks exceeding 19 mm (0.79 in).

### **24. PROTRUSIONS**

Check for protruding bars, bolts, nuts, etc. Test with applicable protrusion gauge. Cover or file sharp edges.

### **25. CAPS/PLUGS**

Check for and file sharp edges. Replace broken cap covers. Cap all opened pipes with plastic plugs.

### **26. PROTECTIVE SURFACING MATERIAL/BORDERS**

Check border-edging material for cracking, chipping, excessive checking, splintering, decay, or damage. Check for exposed concrete. Ensure that there is an adequate depth of protective surfacing material under and around equipment for a minimum of 1.8 m (70.87 in) or as required and specified in this Standard. Ensure that the surfacing material is loose; not compacted; and free of debris, broken glass, needles, animal excrement, etc.

### **27. EQUIPMENT SPACING/NOENCROACHMENT**

Ensure proper spacing between equipment, protective surfacing zones, and no-encroachment zones as required and specified in this Standard.

### **28. FURNITURE**

Check for splinters, excessive checking, cracking, decayed or damaged material, and problems with stability and tilting. Check fastening points. Secure all nuts, bolts, etc. Check welds. Check for sharp edges.

### **29. DEBRIS/BROKEN GLASS**

Check entire playground for debris and litter, broken glass, needles or syringes, animal excrement, etc. Check sand areas and protective surfacing materials for compaction.

### **30. PATHWAYS**

Check for any visible damage. Check for low ponding areas.

### **31. LIGHTING**

Check for any visible damage. Ensure that lights are in proper working order.

### **32. PRECAUTIONS**

Signs Check for any visible damage or graffiti. Check for proper pedestrian head clearance. Check fastening points. Replace weathered or damaged signs.

### **33. FENCING**

Inspect for any visible damage. Check for any protruding point, fence fabric, and hardware (bolts, nuts, etc.). Check for attachments, e.g., skipping ropes.

# WARRANTIES

## ESKAIR'S PLAYSTRUCTURE

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*Eskair equipment is protected by a strong warranty. If you are having any problems with your equipment or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us with photos attached to your request.*

### **There is no maintenance to be done on the wooden parts**

All of our play module constructions use Eastern Canadian white cedar, Western red or yellow cedar, species known for their resistance to decay over time. Our equipment is therefore sold without chemical treatment. As it ages, it is normal for cedar to take on a grey tint. Cedar is also known to offer low risk of splinters, good structural uniformity, and very high resistance to insects in its natural state. For play modules, we use quality hardware that does not rust and is anti-theft. Our cables are made of galvanized steel covered with industrial grade braided polyester.

### **An ecological and sustainable choice**

The useful life of equipment can easily exceed 25 years and a simple sanding can bring equipment back to life after several years of use. Cedar wood is therefore an excellent ecological choice.

### **Woodworking, cracks**

White, yellow and red cedars are natural materials that are subject to temperature fluctuations. The humidity, heat and cold can cause cracks to appear in the wood other than those present at the time of installation (especially during the first 2 years after the installation). If these cracks are not diminishing the equipment's structural integrity nor posing a threat to the safety of users, they are considered normal and part of the Eskair product. It is exceptional to have to replace pieces of wood.

We use oversized cedar logs that give our equipment a remarkable look and sturdiness, far exceeding the integrity requirements of the equipment and allowing us to preserve the structural integrity over the long term (more than 25 years). If a crack appears and creates a safety issue, your warranty applies. To claim this, you will need to send us photos of the equipment, the log and crack causing the issue, and then our engineering department will evaluate the part and determine whether or not to change it. They will also be able to suggest a repair, if applicable.

### **DYE / PAINT**

For safety and long-term maintenance reasons, Eskair does not paint its equipment and we do not advise our customers to do so. The solid cedar we use can remain healthy for decades without treatment.



## CSA certified play equipment **WARRANTY\***

### **Structure poles, planks and boards : 10 years limited warranty**

We warranty the cedar wooden parts against the manufacturing defects and according to the above section "Woodworking, cracks".

### **Hardware: 10 years limited warranty**

Bolts are warranted for 10 years when used under normal conditions and properly maintained against corrosion.

### **Braided polyester steel cables: 5 years limited warranty**

We warranty braided polyester steel cables against breakage. Scratches and other types of damage caused by normal use or impacts are not warranted.

### **Attached movable swing fasteners: 10 years limited warranty**

We warranty the load-bearing joints against severe rusting that interferes with normal use for a period of 10 years. Wear due to moving and/or pivoting parts caused by normal use, impacts and scratches resulting from normal use of equipment are not warranted.

### **Swing seat: 5 years limited warranty**

We warranty swing seats against advanced deterioration that could harm the safety of users, for a period of 5 years. Scratches and other types of damage caused by normal use or impacts are not warranted.

### **Aluminum parts: 10 years limited warranty**

We warranty for 10 years these types of parts, when used under normal conditions and subject to their proper maintenance against tearing due to deteriorated material quality.

### **Steel parts: 10 years limited warranty**

Steel parts are warranted for a period of 10 years against severe rusting. Steel cables are excluded from this clause.

### **Landscaping and installation: 1 year following the final installation date.**

Landscaping and equipment installation work by Eskair Aménagement's team is covered by the warranty.

#### **\* IMPORTANT NOTES**

- These warranties do not cover damage caused by vandalism or extreme climatic events.
- Warranted parts include shipping costs within the warranty period, but it is the responsibility of the owner to carry out the repair.
- The warranty applies to standard Eskair equipment when installed according to the manufacturer's recommendations. For custom products and non-standard installations, this warranty may vary. Talk to your Eskair representative for full details.
- Repairs or modifications made to equipment by the customer could limit or void the warranty offered by Eskair. Contact us as soon as an issue is noted, before any repair.
- The above warranties do not apply to finished products purchased from Eskair suppliers. In this case, the manufacturer's warranty applies. This note refers in particular to Jambette-brand play modules and concrete street furniture.

## Urban and outdoor classroom furniture WARRANTIES\*

### **Furniture: 2 years limited warranty**

Eskair furniture is very strong, so we guarantee the manufacturing quality for a 2-year period after the equipment reception.

### **Layout and installation: 1 year following the final installation date.**

Landscaping and equipment installation work by Eskair Aménagement's team is covered by the warranty.

### **\* IMPORTANT NOTES**

- These warranties do not cover damage caused by vandalism or extreme climatic events.
- Warranted parts include shipping costs within the warranty period, but it is the responsibility of the owner to carry out the repair.
- The warranty applies to standard Eskair equipment when installed according to the manufacturer's recommendations. For custom products and non-standard installations, this warranty may vary. Talk to your Eskair representative for full details.
- Repairs or modifications made to equipment by the customer could limit or void the warranty offered by Eskair. Contact us as soon as an issue is noted, before any repair.
- The above warranties do not apply to finished products purchased from Eskair suppliers. In this case, the manufacturer's warranty applies. This note refers in particular to Jambette-brand play modules and concrete street furniture.